

TUESDAY
January 13, 1959
12:06 p.m.

Chayh
RUBH for C.S.
LTM, G, AC over
JWB

TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Pres just got the translation of Adenauer's message. He does not feel anything is to be done about it. He thinks Bruce should see him and say the Sec brought message to Pres directly and unfortunately we made the commitment and while we agree no good will probably come of it and they may take propaganda advantage there is no way of getting out of it. The Sec does not think the message was well thought out - the Pres could not avoid seeing him. Also A saw him in Germany. The Sec said A is nervous about the situation and he thinks we should reassure him as best we can. The Pres said he read that from Macmillan. They want to handle it with a soft hand. The Sec said too soft for safety.

The Sec will send a transcript of his press conf over soonest.

The Sec said he got the Pres' notes. The Pres said one or two went into substance because he was not sure of meaning. He wanted to get the tone of firmness without ~~name-calling~~ name-calling. The Sec did not think he did. The Pres said everything is put on the Communists - it seemed good to have a change of pace. They are suggestions. The Pres said you can talk with these guys and have fun doing it. They agreed Knowland was a blight on the situation. The Pres thinks things may be a little better.

pdb